## Dynamo Automating Coordination with Annotations, Tags and Note Block Keynotes

Alanna Watts, PE

Mechanical Engineer

Brandon Hartley, RA, AIA

Registered Architect





#### About the speaker

#### Alanna Watts, PE

Alanna is a Mechanical HVAC Design Engineer at Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc. Her passions lie in streamlining tedious processes and saving time. This desire is likely driven by her prior experience in Supply Chain Management at Bell Helicopter. Alanna has been involved with BIM Development at PSC since first joining the team in 2013 and is Autodesk Revit Mechanical Certified. More recently, she spends a portion of her free time trolling twitter for like-minded Dynamo Enthusiast. She likely already follows you.

@AlannaWatts4

#### About the speaker

#### Brandon Hartley, RA, AIA

Brandon is an Architect in the Healthcare Sector at Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc. He is a BIM Coordinator and a Revit Architectural Certified Professional who constantly works to find new and better ways to collaborate with all disciplines within the A/E firm. Brandon is an AU veteran and has had the privilege of attending several conferences over the past 10 years. While Brandon generally prefers to reside behind the scenes, this year he hopes to bring AU attendees some of the most interesting nuggets he has learned over the past decade.



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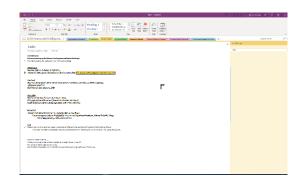
### Agenda

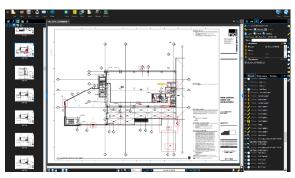
- Introduction
  - 1. Note Comments Coordination
    - Scheduling Automation
  - 2. Note Block Keynotes
  - 3. Mechanical Ductwork Plan Tagging
- Recap

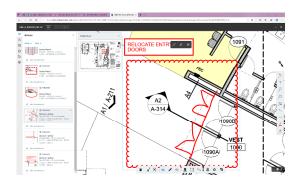
## Get to Dynamo already!

#### Question

- How many of you always find yourself trying to keep track of multiple items that need to be evaluated, designed, and coordinated with a Lead Designer, PA/PM or another discipline?
  - o How are you currently tracking these items?
    - One Note? \*Bluebeam Session? \*BIM 360 Docs? Company Forms? Sticky Notes...?







#### **Note Comment Coordination**

(Coordination / Scheduling Automation)

#### TASK

#### PART 1

Create a way in which coordination items can be tracked within Revit and exported for use by a PM/PA or another discipline.

#### **PROCESS**

#### PART 2

What does this process look like on an actual project, and how does it function?

- ➤ Note Comments
- ➤ Global Parameters

#### **DETAIL**

#### PART 3

How did this become possible through the use of Dynamo and through the vast Dynamo community?

Dynamo Note Comment Slave

#### SCHEDULING

#### PART 4

How was this automated to eliminate the need for a user to keep track of the task?

- Dynamo Sandbox
  - Master Script
- · Windows Task Scheduler
  - DynamoSandbox.exe
  - DynamoCLI.exe
- Visual Basic
  - Schedule DynamoSanbox Script

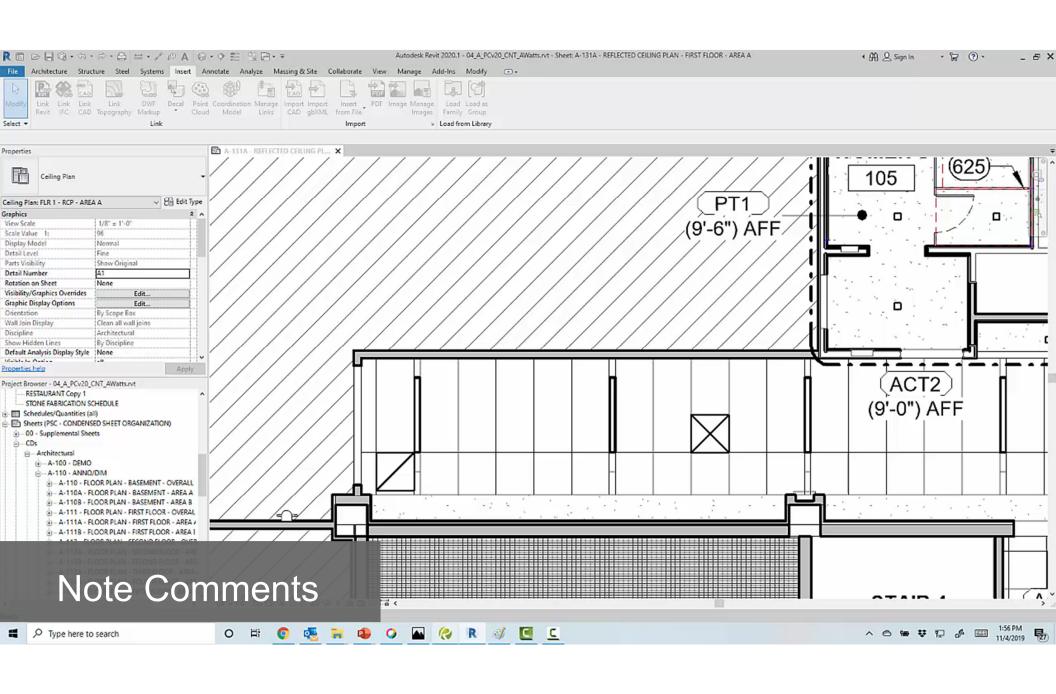
## Task

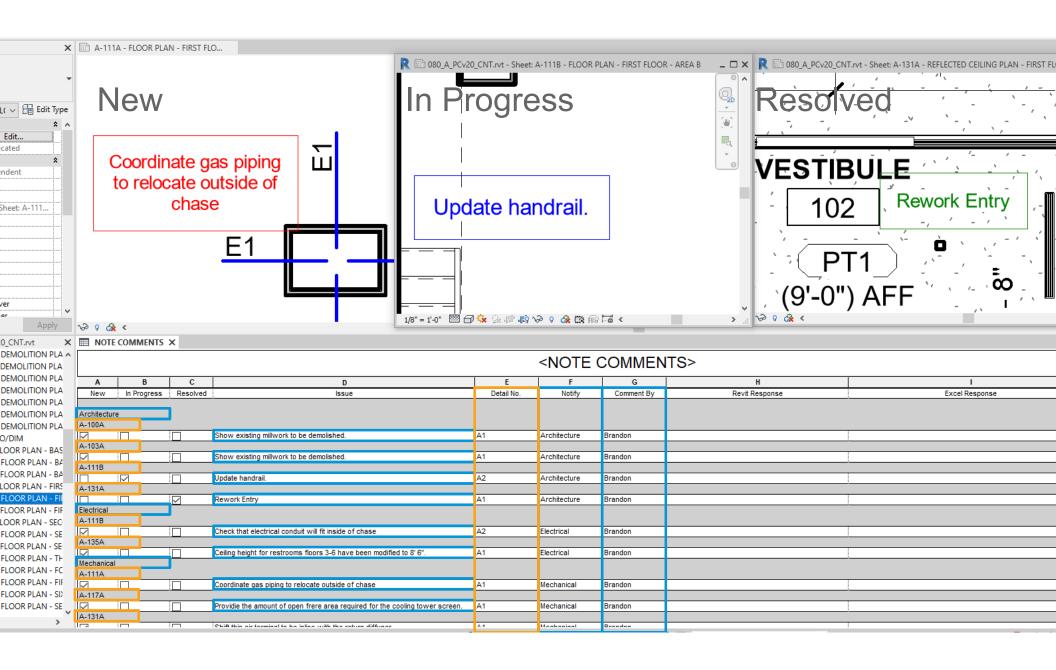
Create a way in which coordination items can be tracked within Revit and exported for use by a PM/PA or another discipline.

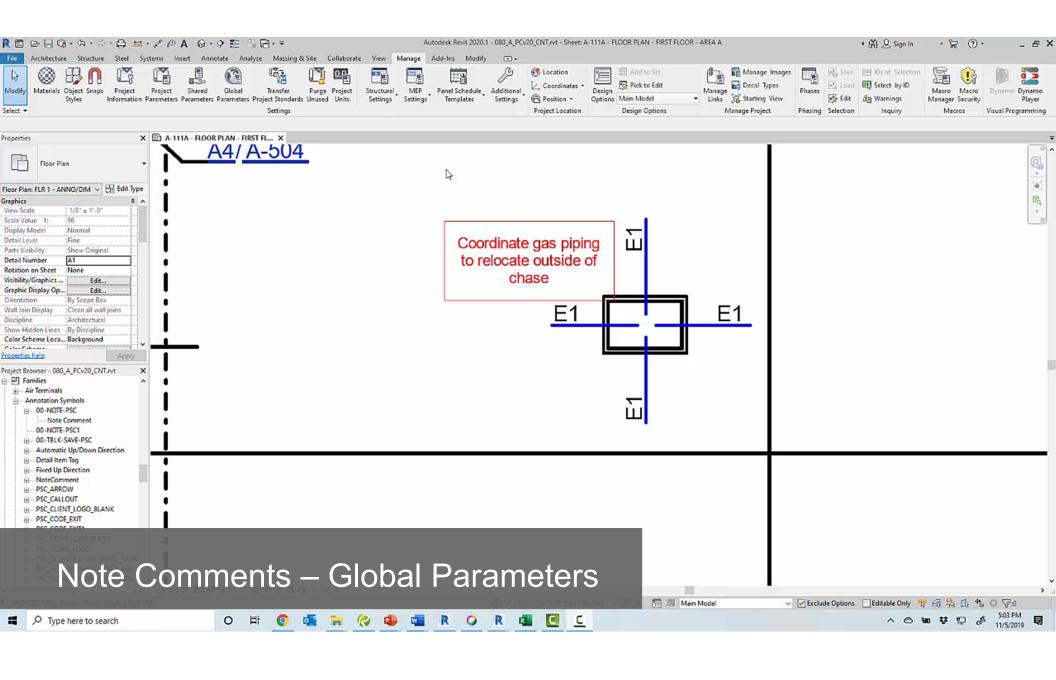
### **Process**

What does this process look like on an actual project, and how does it function?

> Video





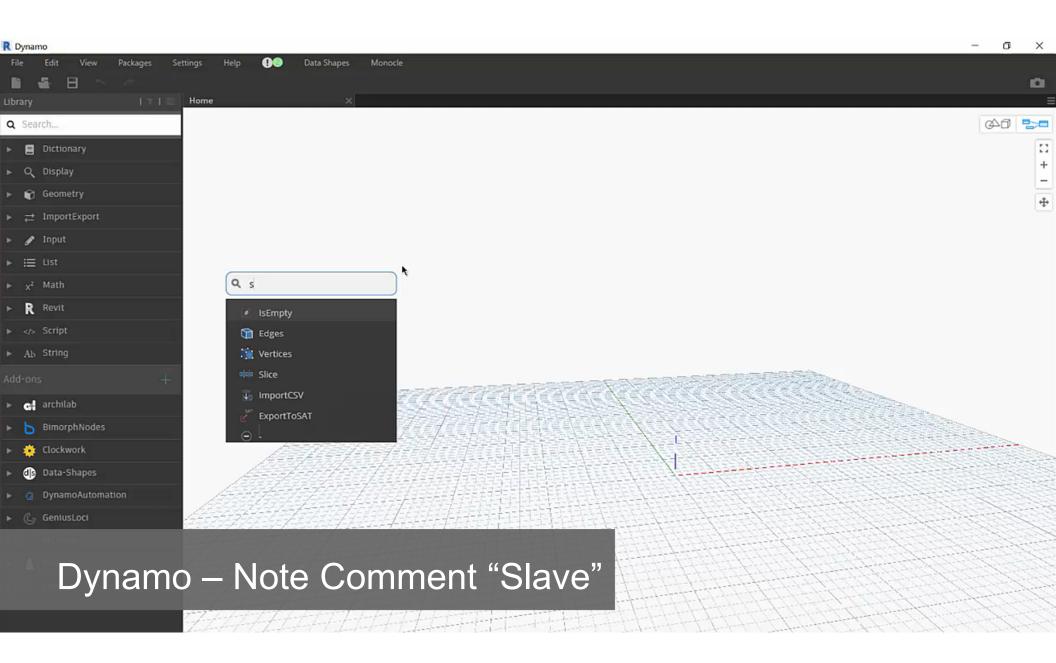


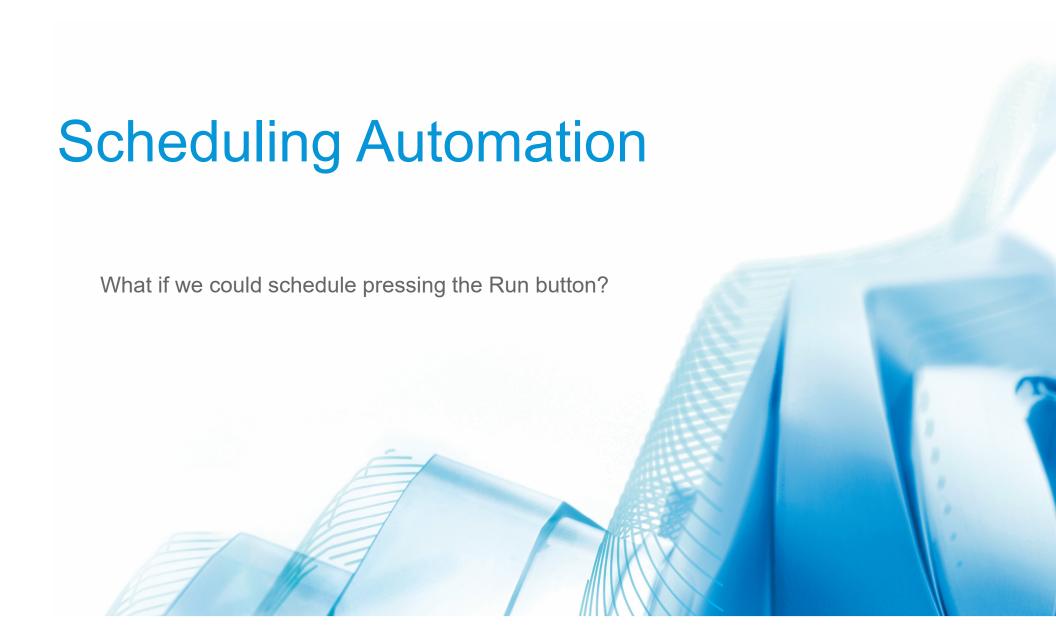
## **Details**

How did this become possible through the use of Dynamo and with the help of the vast Dynamo community?

> Video

## You're perfect just the way you are, and there is room for improvement. - Jack Kornfield



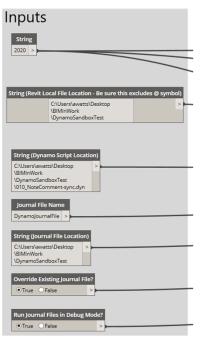


## Dynamo Sandbox (Opening Revit Files with Dynamo)

#### Master Graphs – by **Andreas Dieckmann**

https://github.com/andydandy74/DynamoAutomation/wiki/Master-Graphs

- 1. Inputs
- 2. Create list of Revit files
- 3. Create journal files
- 4. Batch-process Revit files
- 5. Close Dynamo Sandbox



#### Inputs

**Revit Version** 

Revit Local File Location (Excludes @ symbol)

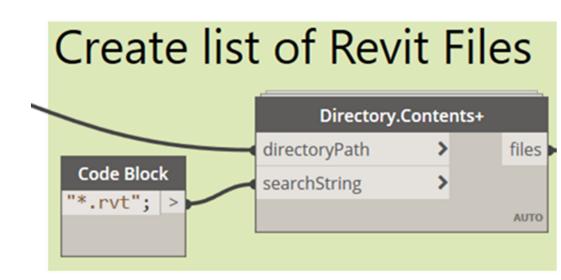
**Dynamo Script Location** 

Journal File Name

Journal File Location

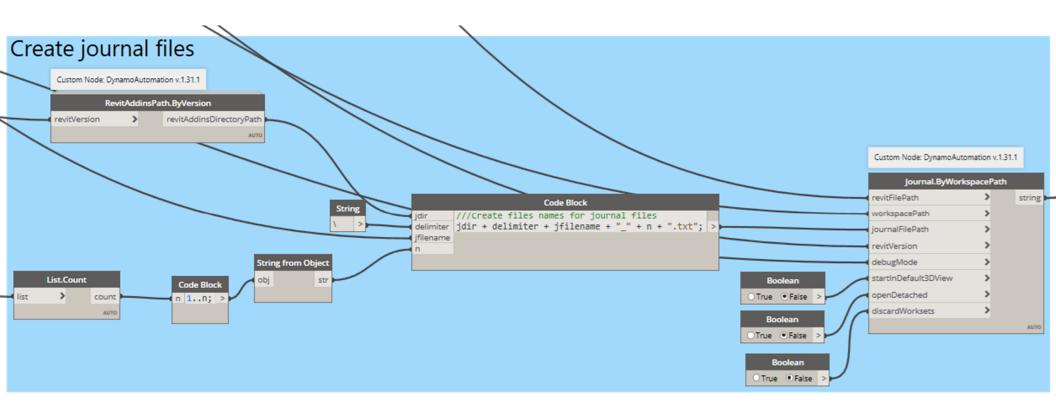
Override Journal File

**Debug Journal Files** 

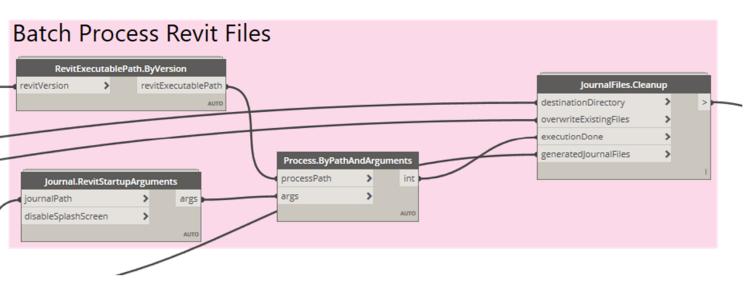


#### Create list of Revit files

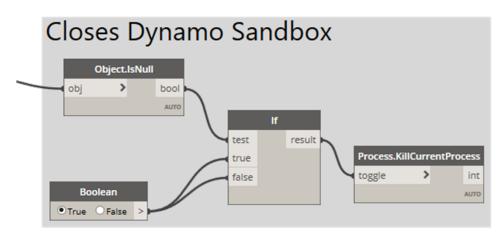
Utilize Clockwork Package **Directory.Contents+** to obtain all the Revit files in that are to be modified.



Journal Files



Process the Revit files



Closes the Script

#### Task Scheduler

Dynamo Command Line Interface

https://github.com/DynamoDS/Dynamo/wiki/Dynamo-Command-Line-Interface

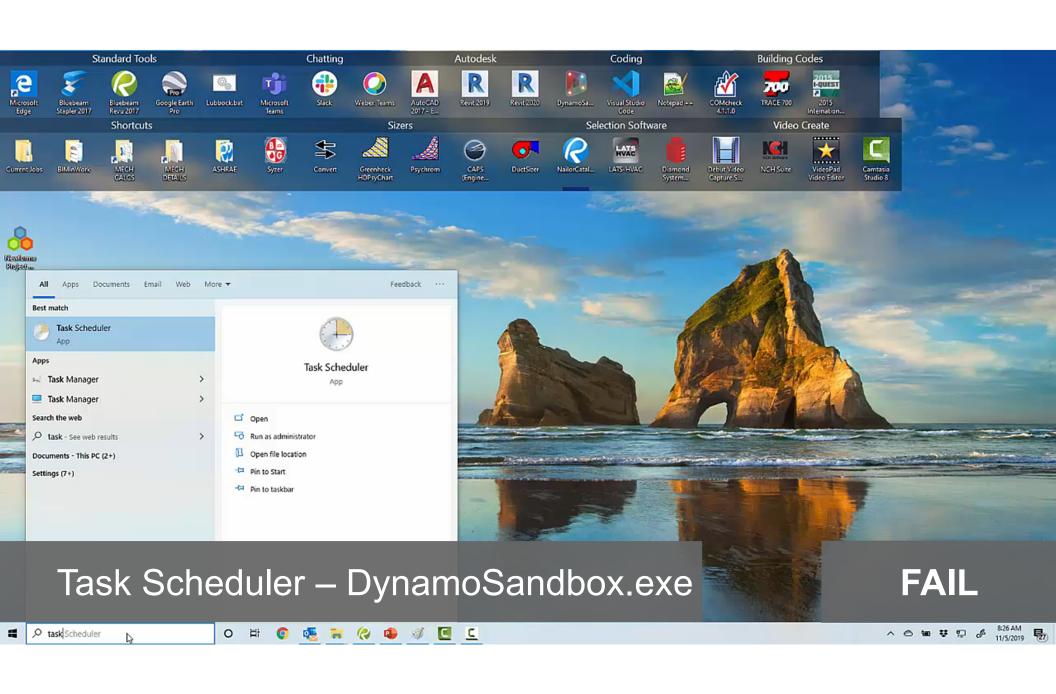
INHERENT ISSUES WITH USING DYNAMO SANDBOX AND TASK SCHEDULER

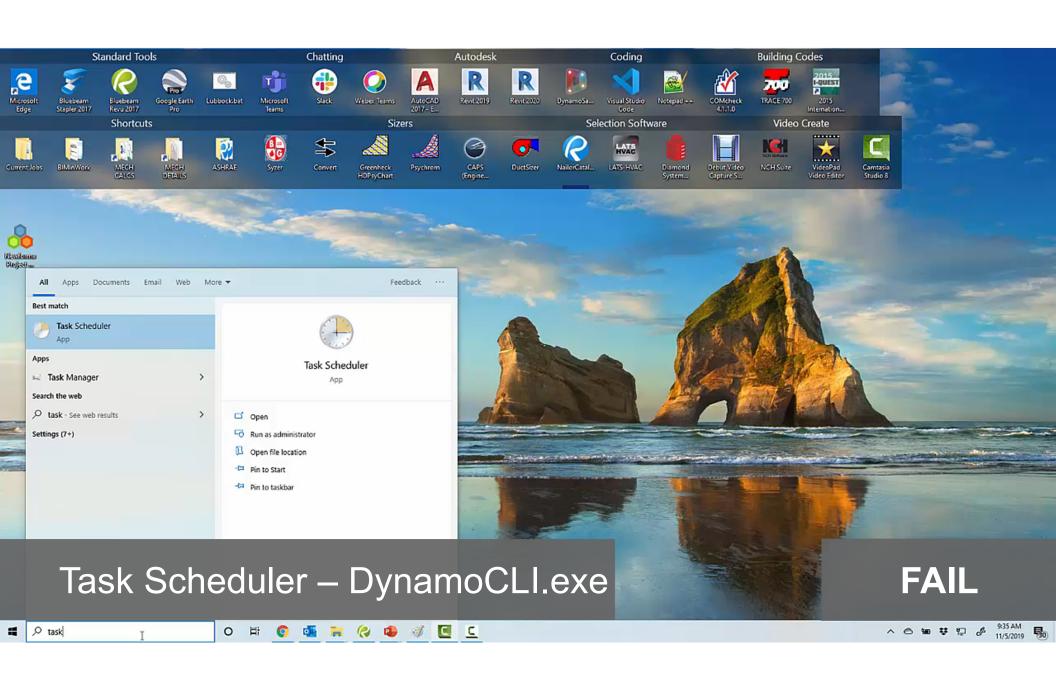
#### **DYNAMOSANDBOX.EXE**

Will not open the specific file

#### **DYNAMOCLI.EXE**

Does not contain all the library components to properly run the Master Script



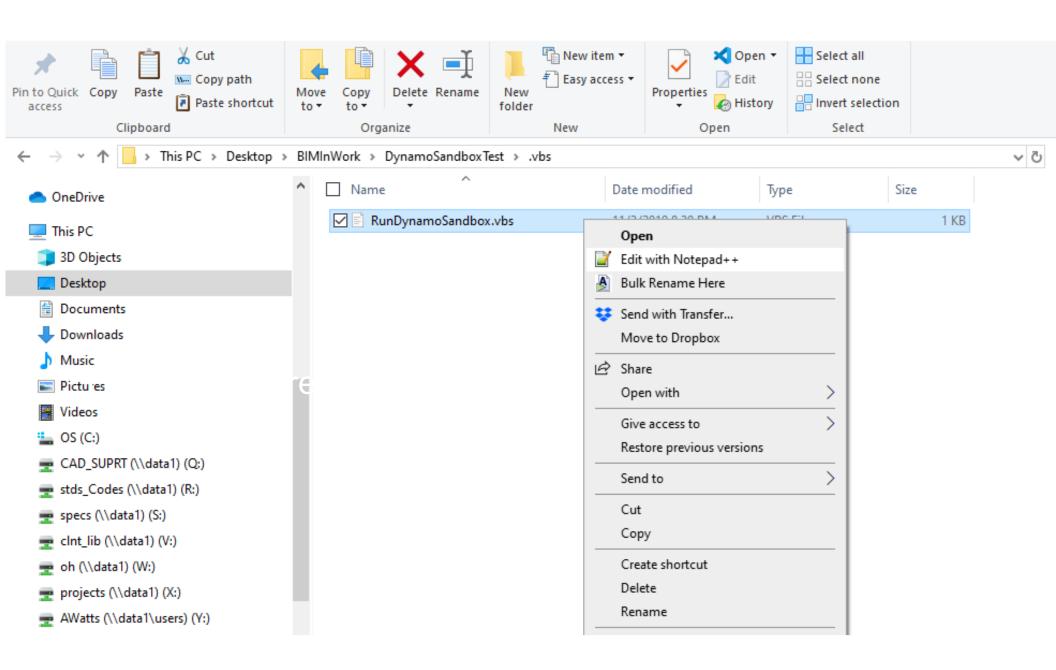


## What have we found that works consistently?

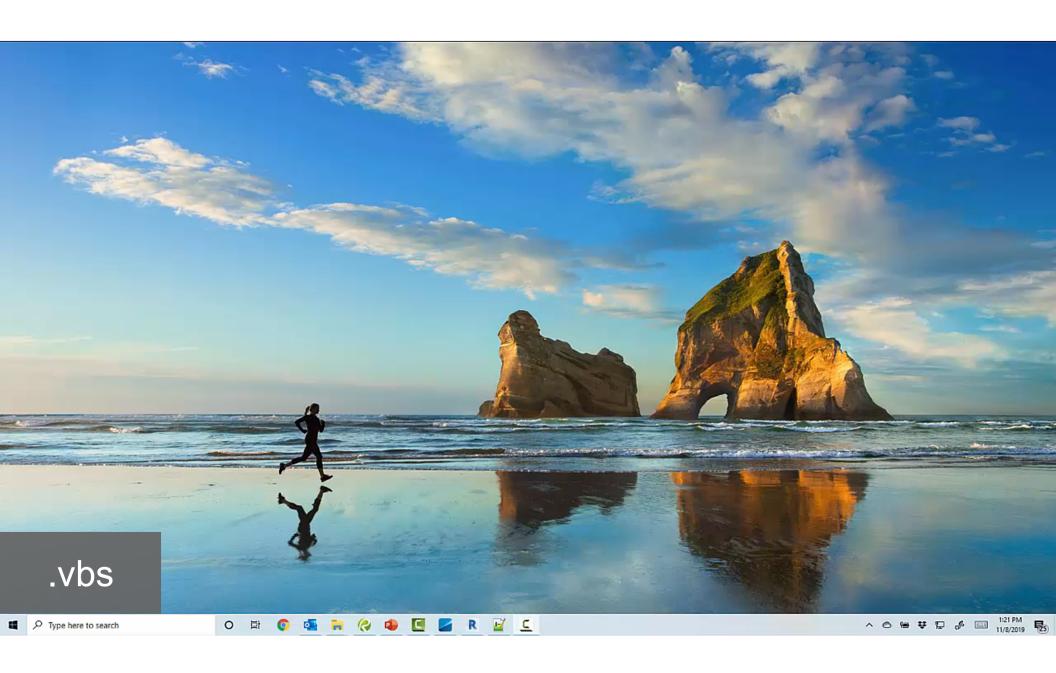
#### .vbs – Visual Basics Script

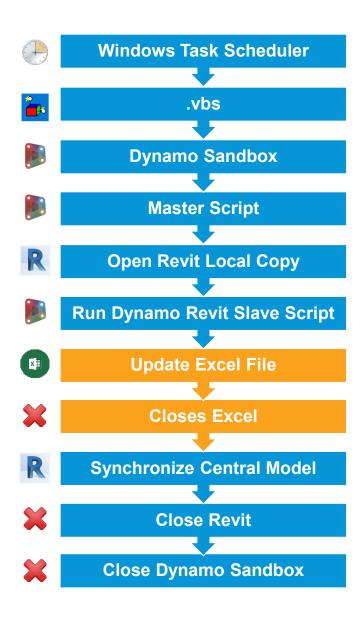
VB Script "Microsoft Visual Basic Scripting Edition"

An Active Scripting language that allows time delays.



```
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File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
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RunDynamoSandbox.vbs
       Dim objShell
  2
       Set objShell = WScript.CreateObject( "WScript.Shell" )
       objShell.Run("""C:\Program Files\Dynamo\Dynamo Core\2\DynamoSandbox.exe""")
  3
       wscript.sleep 10000
       objshell.AppActivate "DynamoSandbox"
  6
       wscript.sleep 10000
       objShell.SendKeys "(%)(R)"
  8
       wscript.sleep 5000
  9
       objShell.SendKeys "(%)(X)"
       wscript.sleep 10000
 10
 11
       objShell.SendKeys "^o"
 12
       objShell.SendKeys "{TAB}{TAB}{TAB}{TAB}{TAB}{TAB}{ENTER}"
       objShell.SendKeys "C:\Users\awatts\Desktop\BIMInWork\DynamoSandboxTest"
 13
 14
       objShell.SendKeys "{ENTER}"
 15
       wscript.sleep 5000
 16
       objShell.SendKeys "{TAB}{TAB}{TAB}{TAB}{TAB}"
 17
       objShell.SendKeys "MasterScriptNoteComment2020.dyn{ENTER}"
 18
       objShell.SendKeys "{ENTER}"
 19
       wscript.sleep 10000
       objShell.SendKeys "{F5}"
 20
 21
```



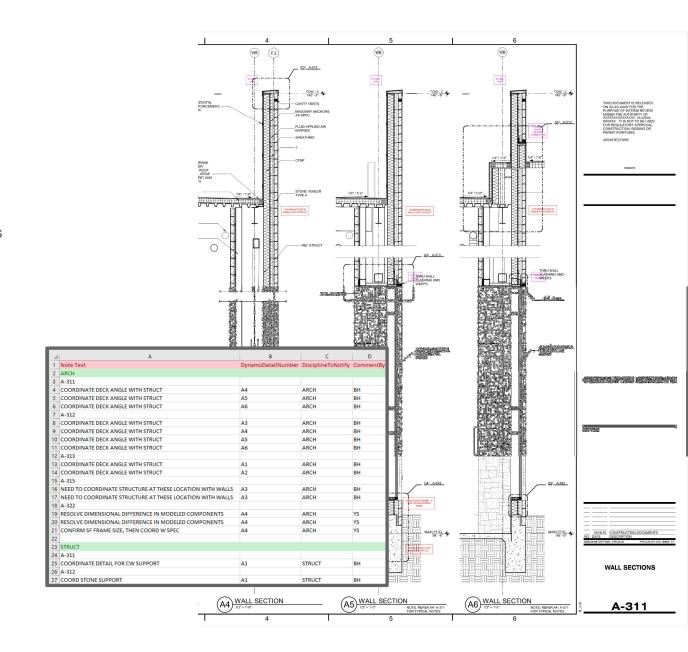






#### Recap

- Created a way where Generic
   Annotation (Note Comments) families
   can be used to keep track of
   coordination items within Revit.
- Dynamo leveraged to locate the Note Comments within a View and on a Sheet.
- Excel file exported for non-Revit users.
- Dynamo was scheduled to run during off hours.



# We suffer more often in imagination than in reality. -Seneca

#### Question

• How many of you are using Note Block Keynotes when annotating your MEP sheets?

 Have you come across any problems when using the Note Block Keynotes methods on plans with multiple areas?

#### Note Block Keynotes

(Quality Control)

#### TASK

#### PART 1

Create a way in which
Keynotes placed in views will
show only on the sheets in
which they are visible.

- ➤ Note Block Keynotes (Views)
- ➤ Note Block Keynotes (Sheets)

#### **AUTOMATION**

PART

#### **PROCESS**

#### PART 2

What does this process look like on an actual project, and how does it function?

#### **DETAIL**

#### PART 3

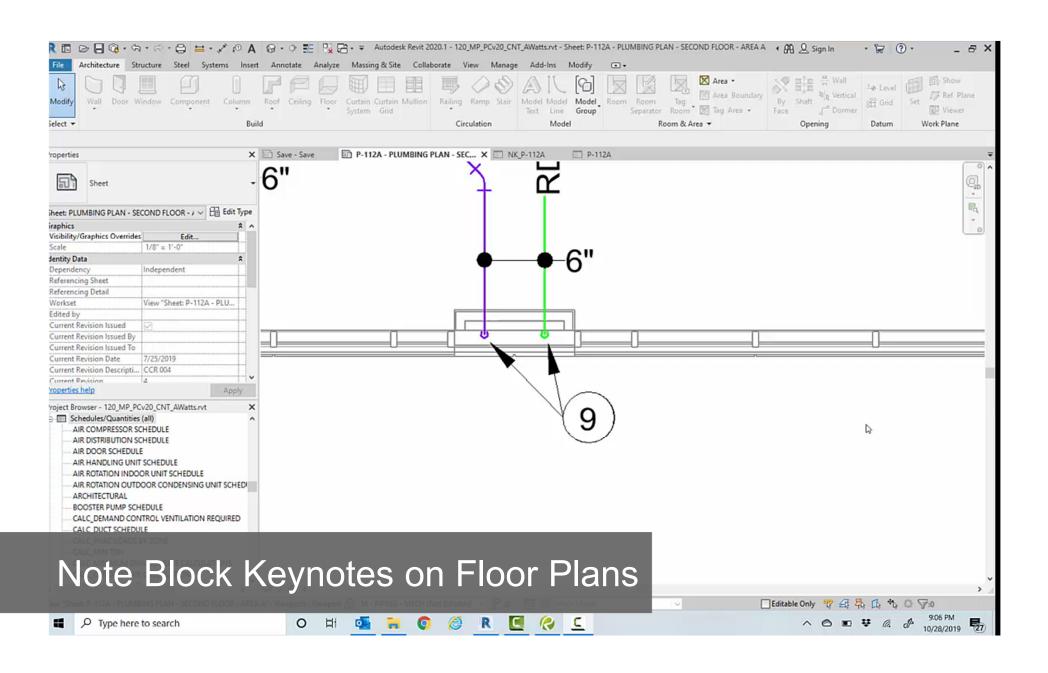
How did this become possible through the use of Dynamo and through the vast Dynamo community?

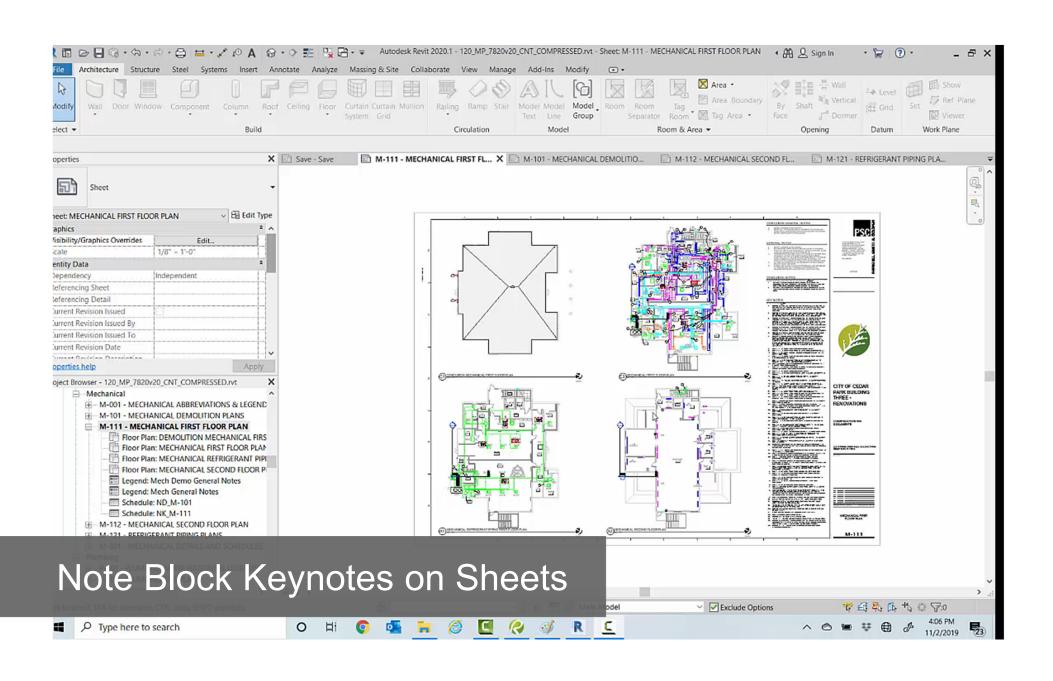
Dynamo Detail

## Task

Create a way in which Keynotes placed in views will show only on the sheets in which they are visible.

➤ Video (The problem with Note Block Keynotes)

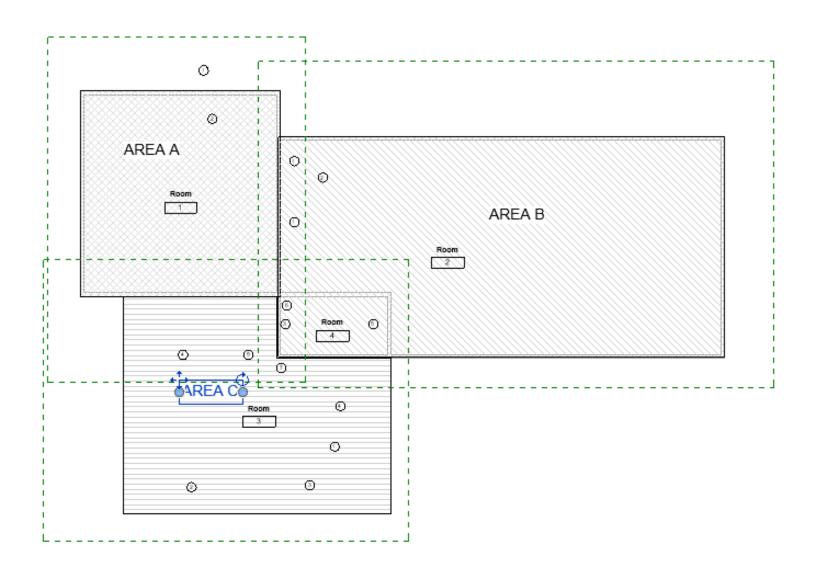


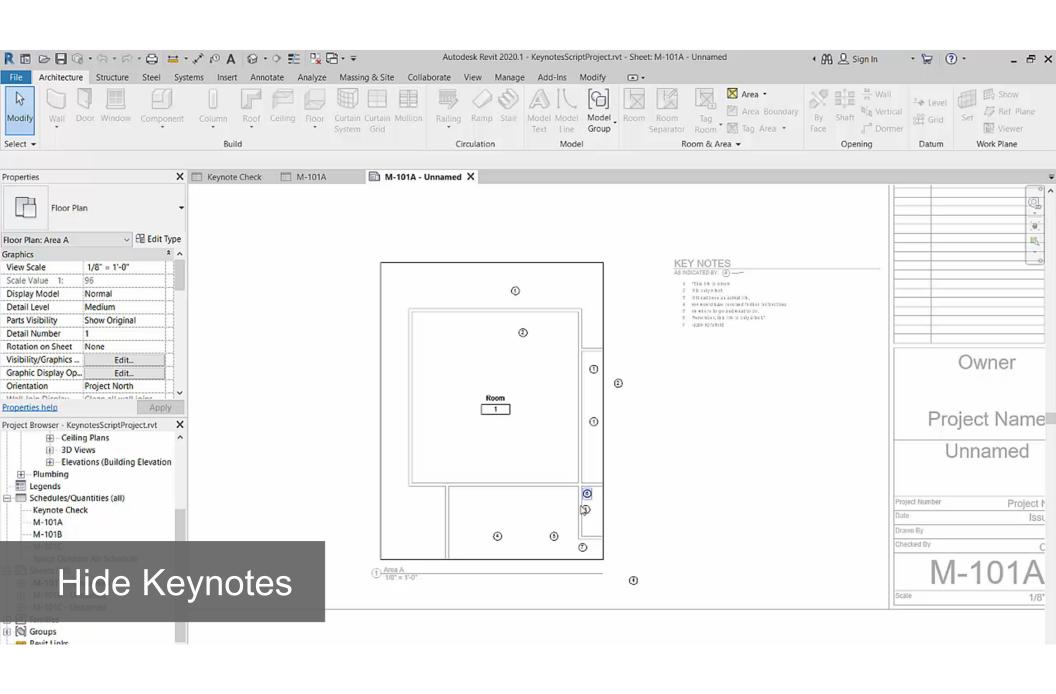


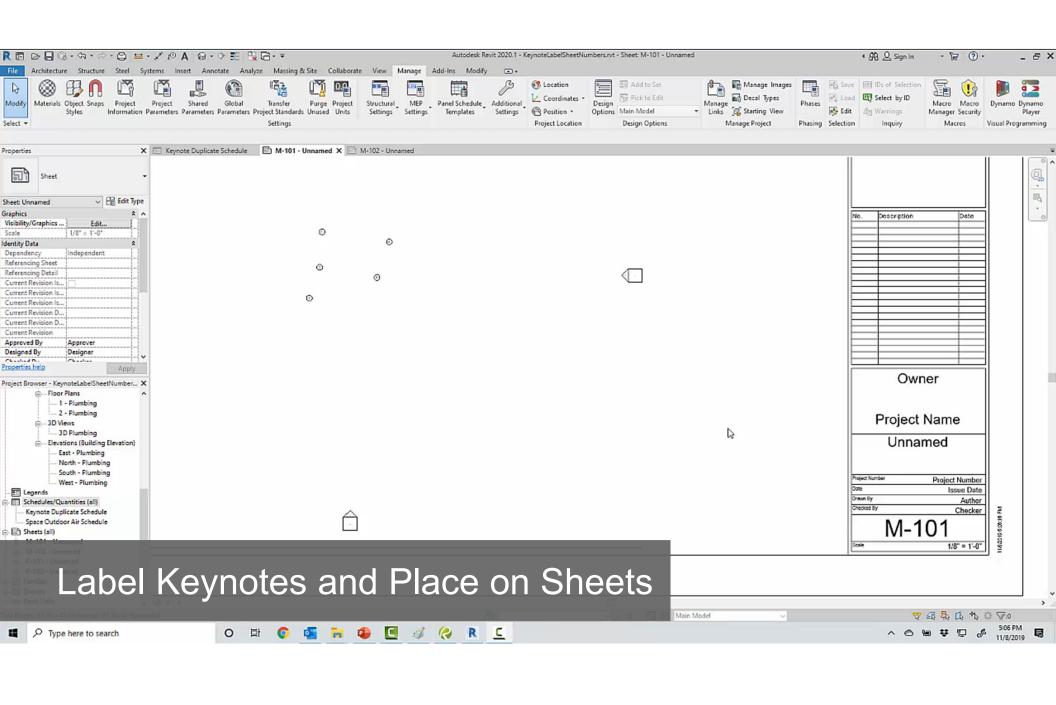
# **Process**

What does this process look like on an actual project, and how does it function?

> Video



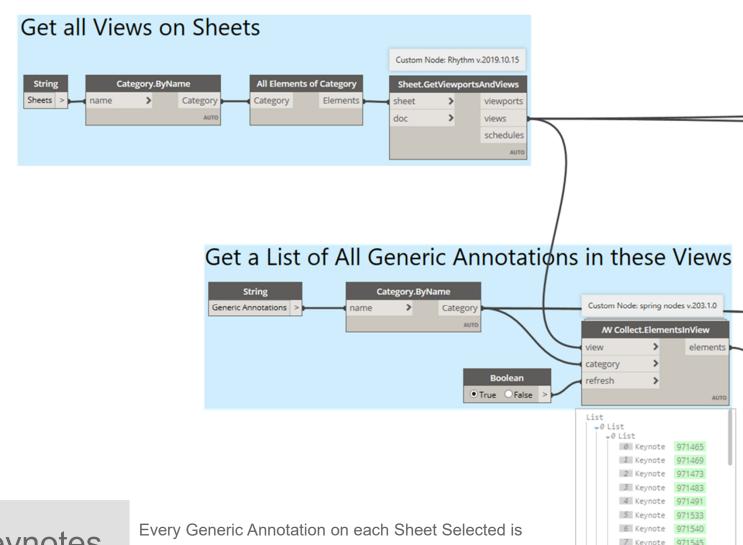




# **Detail**

How did this become possible through the use of Dynamo and through the vast Dynamo community?

> Video

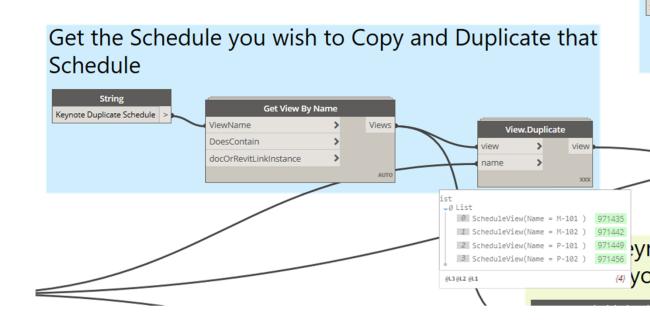


Dynamo - Hide Keynotes

Every Generic Annotation on each Sheet Selected is processed, which can take a lot of time

9 Keynote : 871529

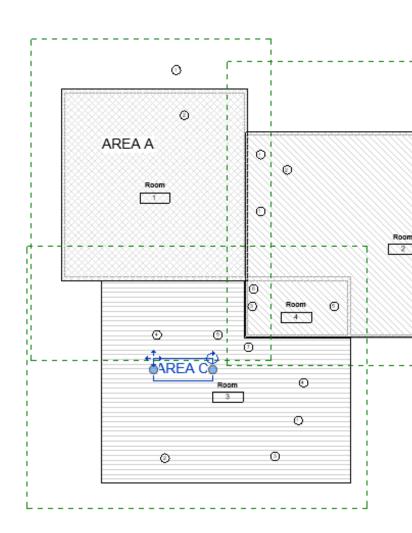
@L4 @L3 @L2 @L1



Dynamo – Label Keynotes and Place on Sheets

### Recap

- Created a way where Note Block
   Keynotes could be checked for quality
   control to ensure appropriate visibility.
- Dynamo used to solve issue where Note Block Keynotes may appear on multiple dependent views.
- Dynamo used to placed Note Block Schedules on associated sheets automatically reducing user effort.



### Question

For the engineers in the room, how often do you find yourself fighting to find a legible location to locate mechanical equipment, spaces and air terminal tags?

 Would it be beneficial if you could use Dynamo to help with the initial location of these tags to reduce your up-front time commitment?

### **Mechanical Ductwork Tags**

(Quality Control / Time)

### **TASK**

#### PART 1

Create a way in which
Mechanical tags would be
placed in a view at a location
where they would be visible
and not overlap any nearby
objects.

### **PROCESS**

#### PART 2

What does this process look like on an actual project, and how does it function?

√ Tag Mechanical Ductwork
Plans

### AUTOMATION

PART 4

### **DETAIL**

#### PART 3

How did this become possible through the use of Dynamo and through the vast Dynamo community?

- Dynamo Detail (Video)
  - Tag Mechanical Ductwork Plans
- Discussion

## Task

Create a way in which Mechanical tags would be placed in a view at a location where they would be visible and not overlap any nearby objects.

Video (The problem with using Tag All...)

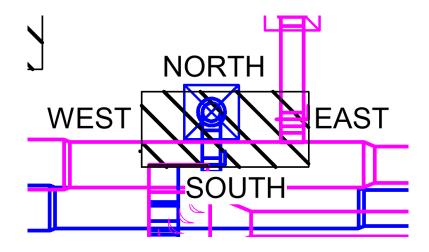
## Tag Plans

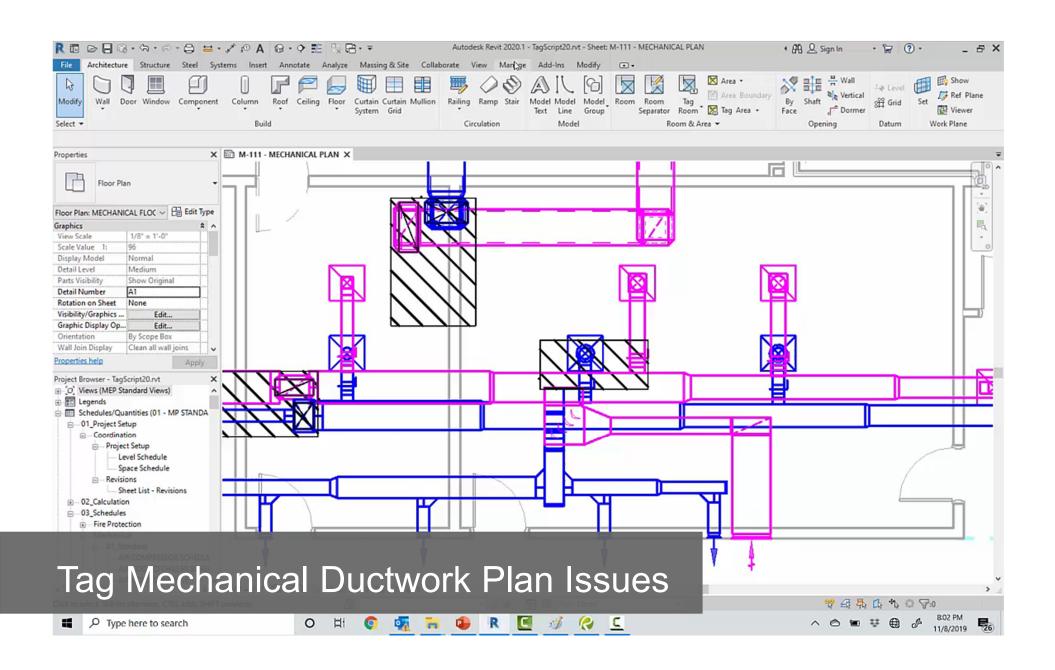
↑ North → East ←West ↓ South

### **Priority**

Mechanical Equipment

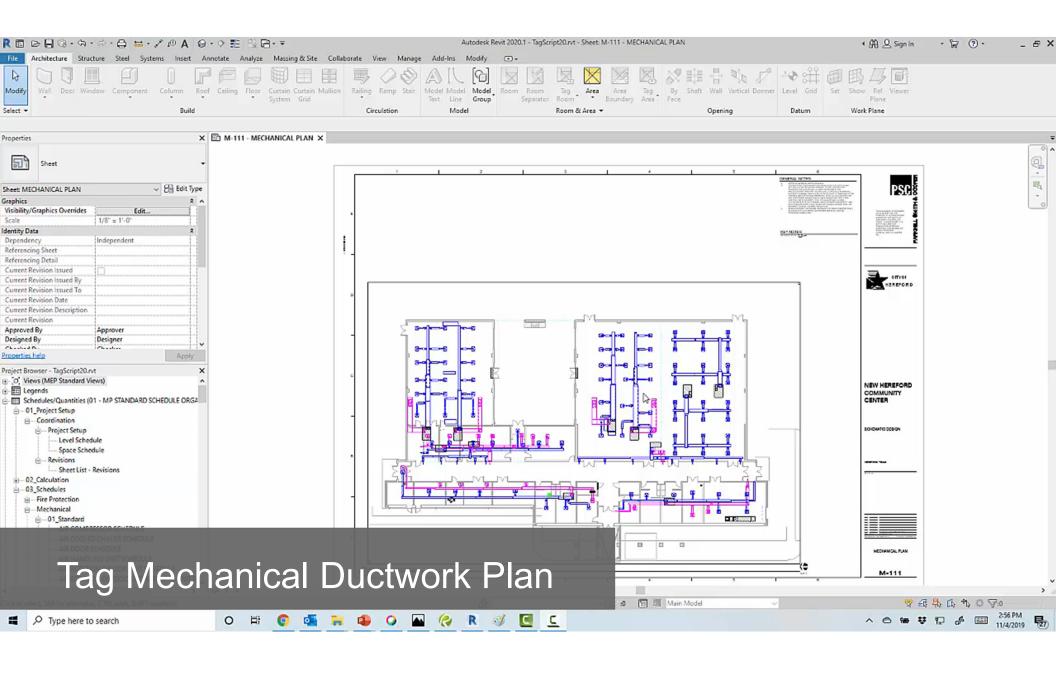
- $\rightarrow$  Spaces
  - → Air Terminals





# **Process**

What does this process look like on an actual project, and how does it function?

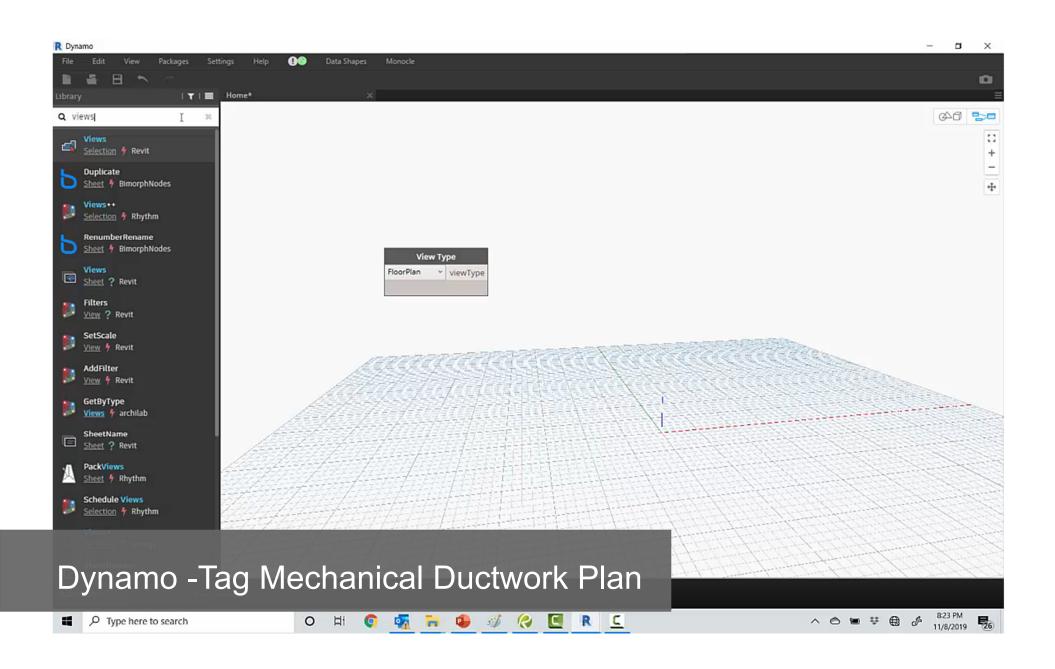


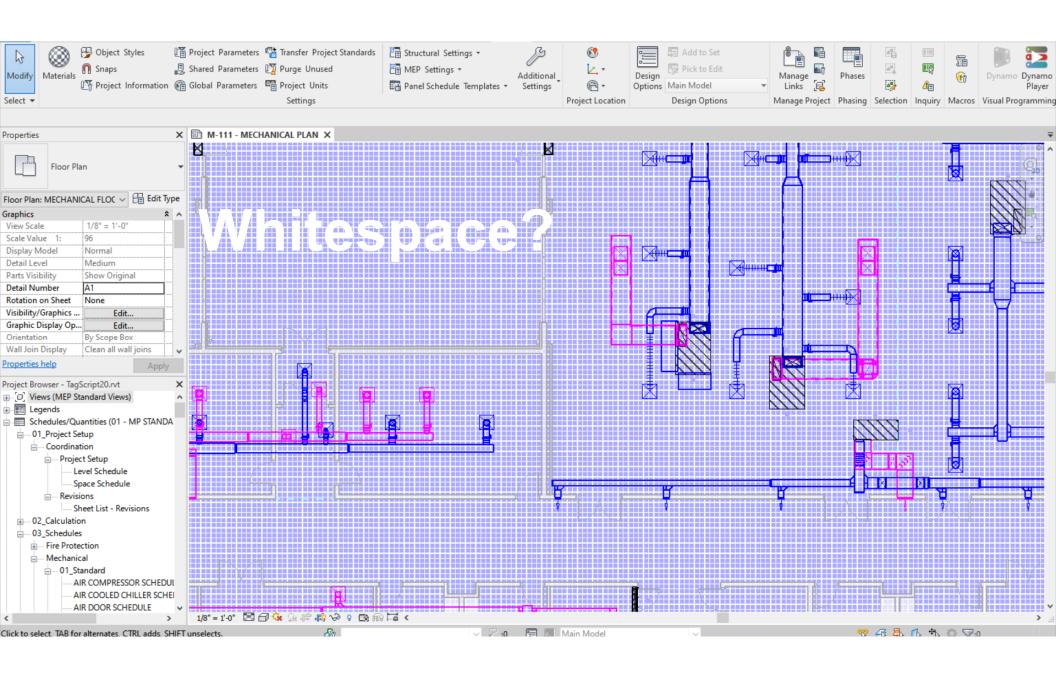
# **Detail**

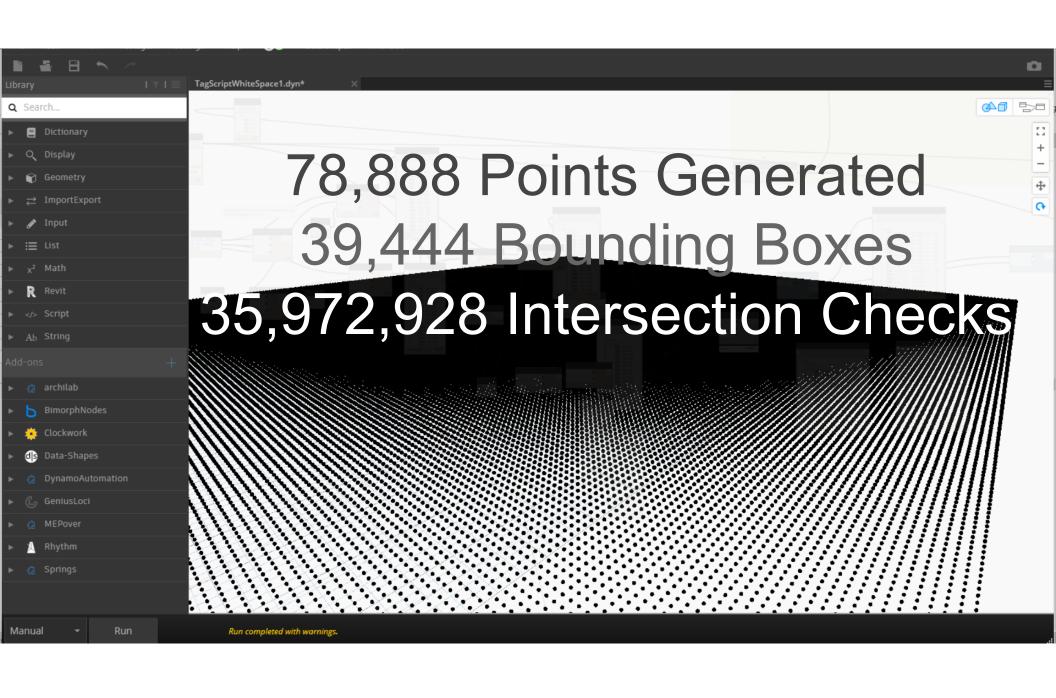
How did this become possible through the use of Dynamo and through the vast

Dynamo community?

Video

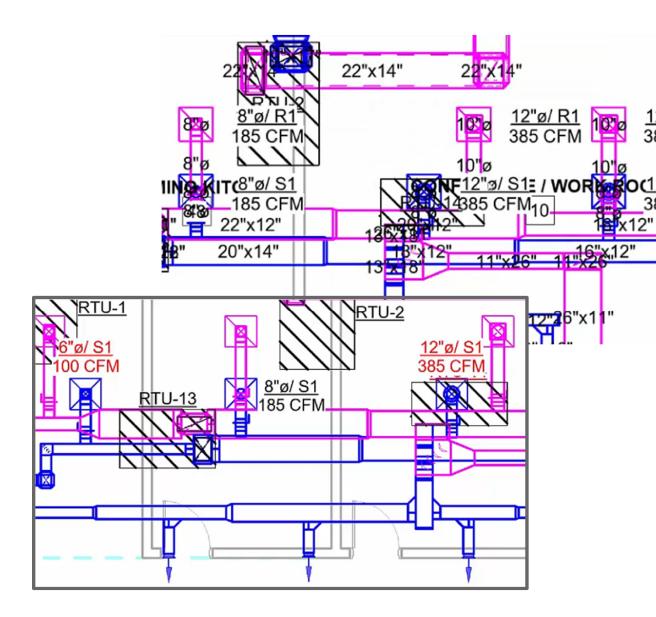






### Recap

- Created a way where Dynamo can automatically place Mechanical Equipment tags in a legible location where objects are not overlapping for legibility.
- Whitespace possibilities discussed for future implementation.





Make anything...

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# We would love to hear from you!

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## References

Boehning, J. (2017). Dynamo Design Script for MEP. *Autodesk University*: Las Vegas, NV. <a href="https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/class/Dynamo-DesignScript-MEP-2017">https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/class/Dynamo-DesignScript-MEP-2017</a>

Dieckmann, A. (2017). Master Graphs. *DynamoAutomation*. Retrieved from <a href="https://github.com/andydandy74/DynamoAutomation/wiki/Master-Graphs">https://github.com/andydandy74/DynamoAutomation/wiki/Master-Graphs</a>

Massey, M. (2016). Schedules can't do that in Revit 2017. *Autodesk University*: Las Vegas, NV. <a href="https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/class/Schedules-Cant-Do-Revit-2017-2016">https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/class/Schedules-Cant-Do-Revit-2017-2016</a>



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Mackey, B. (2018). Revit Journal Files they aren't just for Autodesk Support. *Autodesk University*: Las Vegas, NV. <a href="https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/class/Schedules-Cant-Do-Revit-2017-2016">https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/class/Schedules-Cant-Do-Revit-2017-2016</a>

Raja. (2017). Atkins14. Read Excel file node Opens Excel file. *Forum DynamoBIM*. Retrieved from https://forum.dynamobim.com/t/read-excel-file-node-opens-excel-file/7813

